

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Oct. 20, 2006 1700 hours

Divisions:

Air Quality (DAQ) Environmental Health (DEH) Marine Fisheries (DMF) Radiation Protection (RP) Water Resources (DWR) Aquariums (AQU) Forest Resources (DFR) Museum on Nat. Sciences (DMNS) Soil and Water Conservation (DSWC) Zoological Park (DZP) Coastal Management (DCM) Land Resources (DLR) Parks and Recreation (DPR) Waste Management (DWM) Customer Service Center (CSC) Legislative/Intergovernmental Affairs (LIA) Pollution Prevention (DPPEA) Water Quality (DWQ)

Apex-Environmental Quality Hazardous Waste Fire Assessment Report

1. Division/Agency Name: Divisions of Waste Management, Air Quality and Water Quality

2. Current Situation:

The N.C. Division of Waste Management has allowed cleanup to resume at the site, following suspension on Wednesday of cleanup operations after a fire started in a 55-gallon drum of sodium at the site.

DWM allowed cleanup to resume after Environmental Quality provided a written description of the event and assurances that steps taken were consistent with the original cleanup plan, in order to protect public health and safety when cleanup continued.

After Wednesday's fire, Environmental Quality submitted to DWM an initial incident report. DWM then submitted to Environmental Quality a series of questions concerning safety, the company's response to the incident and the procedures outlined in the original state-approved cleanup plan.

EQ responded to all questions asked by the Division of Waste Management and has executed a memorandum of understanding relating to emergency response procedures at Environmental Quality. This MOU represents an agreement between Environmental Quality (EQ) and the Apex Fire Department.

The MOU will allow, in any future incident, more immediate implementation of steps by EQ's contractor to respond to any incidents and ensure clearer coordination with the Apex Fire Department.

Cleanup resumed at the EQ facility this morning at approximately 7:45 a.m. United States Environmental Services (USES) is the contracted cleanup company for EQ. Scrap metal is being containerized in roll-off boxes. USES personnel inspected drums in the bays. They marked empty drums, marked drums for sampling, and also sampled some drums. Roll-off boxes of scrap metal from previous work is being hauled to Raleigh Metal Processors, 2310 Garner Rd, Raleigh, NC 27611-5037. Contact for Raleigh Metal is Wade Weisman, Assistant General Manager, (919) 828-5426.

Sand berms around the bay areas and storm drains on Investment Boulevard remained intact. Stormwater in the bay areas was pumped and contained this morning. URS is on-site to sample stormwater tanks.

Cleanup of site will continue over the weekend according to the DENR-approved cleanup plan. EQ contractors, with DWM oversight, will continue to address remaining containers and fire residue, according to existing cleanup plan.

Kits for conducting exterior wipe samples arrived at the Division of Air Quality early Friday morning. DAQ toxics staff headed out to the field as soon as possible Friday a.m. to collect samples at about 30 locations near the EQ facility in Apex. The bulk of the samples were to be collected downwind from the EQ site, with a few upwind sites to serve as controls.

DAQ took a total of six samples at each location. DAQ sampled for three different substances (metals, total cyanides and semivolatiles) on the front side (facing EQ) and back side (away from EQ) at each location.

DAQ is planning a joint media event at 4 p.m. so local TV and newspaper reporters can get video and photographs of sampling. PIOs will be available from both DAQ (Tom Mather) and DHHS (Marc Van Sciver) to handle interviews with the press so field staff can do their work. The event will be at Dream Sports Center, 1016 Investment Blvd., Apex, just down the street from EQ facility.

On Thursday the Division of Water Quality pulled samples for metals and took physical readings downstream of the site on the unnamed tributary that flows adjacent to the EQ site before it joins Middle Creek. Physical readings were normal. Metals test results are expected next week. DWQ was not able to do upstream readings because of restrictions in place regarding site access - there is little stream above the site and its location is very near the site.

DWQ performed no additional testing on Friday.

3. Departmental Operational Priorities: To ensure that all hazardous material constituents are removed from the site and that there are no remaining environmental hazards. Everything is considered hazardous waste in the burned pile. The main tasks to be completed include categorizing all materials and determining where it will go and how it will be treated.

4. Divisional Operational Priorities: Same as 3.